

BERLIN REPORTED IN QUEST OF PEACE

Germany Making Overtures
to U. S., Copenhagen Re-
ports Assert

INCLUDES PARLEY OFFER

ROME, April 12.
Austria is pressing Pope Benedict to
move for peace among the European
belligerents, according to an authentic
report in Vatican circles. The Corriere
della Sera, in mentioning the move to-
day, declared that the Holy Father is
refusing to proceed now "for diplomatic
reasons."

LONDON, April 12.
An Exchange Telegraph dispatch to-
day from Lausanne asserted it was
stated on semi-official authority that
Bulgarian delegates were in Switzer-
land endeavoring to reach a basis for
a separate peace with representatives
of the Entente.

By ARTHUR E. MANN

COPENHAGEN, April 12.
Apparently positive reports were received
here today that the German Foreign Office
was making peace overtures to the United
States. It was understood these negotia-
tions sought peace between the two nations.
No further details were available here. Of-
ficial circles manifested the most intense
interest in the report.
It is understood that Secretary of State
Lansing has already received the overtures
through unofficial mediators. The proposition
as reported here is for the United States
Government to send Colonel E. M.
House to The Hague for a secret "unofficial
conference."
Germany's terms were not specified in
the reports here, but it was hinted there
had been no change in his position as out-
lined by the German Embassy in Washing-
ton early in December, when Chancellor
von Bethmann-Hollweg made his formal
proffer in the Reichstag. At that time Ger-
many hinted that the question of indemnity
for Belgium would not be an unsurmount-
able obstacle to peace, but plainly insisted
on a return to the status quo before the war,
including return of all her colonies or
a rearrangement of all belligerents'
colonial possessions.

Several weeks ago it was reported that
another peace proposition was to be made
by the Central Empires. The report at that
time said Emperor Carl, of Austria-Hun-
gary, would act as spokesman for the
terms.

Germany has frequently sent out un-
official peace "feelers" in the past, in ad-
dition to the official proffer made early last
December.
The importance of the present peace over-
tures—if they are in progress—would de-
pend entirely on the concessions announced
by Germany.
When peace "feelers" were sounded in
Washington by the Swiss Minister, Doctor
Ritter, representing Germany after the de-
parture of Ambassador Bernstorff, Secre-
tary Lansing, on behalf of the President,
said the United States could entertain no
proposals from Germany until after the
submarine decree had been withdrawn and
the pledges for U-boat war under rule of
international law reaffirmed.

WASHINGTON DENIES PEACE OVERTURES

WASHINGTON, April 12.
The State Department declared today it
had received no peace overtures—formal or
otherwise—from Germany and had no rea-
son to believe any were en route.
It added that the Government is not
ready for any such overtures, and the de-
partment left the inference that the Admin-
istration view is against a separate peace.
It was pointed out today that Germany's
reported overtures might be of so "in-
formal" a nature that the State Department
might very well claim lack of any official
basis for such reports.

Previous "peace feelers" by Germany
have always been put out, in such in-
tangible shape that they have first reached
other Governments usually in the form of
mere reports without any official character.

NEW YORK, April 12.
When Colonel E. M. House was informed
today of the Copenhagen report of German
peace overtures to America he said:
"I know nothing of any formal or of-
ficial action along that line. As for any
peace suggestions that may have come to
me personally, I can only say that these
have been so informal, so indirect and so
vague that I have given them no consid-
eration, and they can in no way be the
subject of the Copenhagen report."

ADmits \$400 THEFT AND CHARGES EXTORTION

Man Says Acquaintances Who
Knew His Secret Black-
mailed Him

At the time of the World's Series in 1914,
Charles Frets, a clerk for the Standard
Hooley Mill Company, 1210 North Law-
rence street, took \$400 from the firm that
employed him and bet on the Athletics.
After Mack's team had lost Frets started
to drink—he says so himself—and told
those who would listen about his troubles.
Then he went to work to pay back the
money he had taken. But here came a
complication, according to his testimony
today before Magistrate Beaton in Central
Police Station.
James Moore and Philip Lauchell, 1208
North Randolph street, took great pains to
make his acquaintance, he says. They
began to hint at knowing something about
his actions in relation to the firm that em-
ployed him. Finally, so the testimony runs,
of them told him that he had talked
too much—that his speculations were
known to the speaker and so on. He also
mentioned being "up against it" and Frets
gave him money.

Frets told frankly this morning of the
trouble he is anxious to have suffered at
the hands of the two men. Nine thousand dol-
lars, he averred, was their toll, and all the
time he sank deeper and deeper in the
trap.
"Sometimes," he said, "I would give one
of them \$10. Once I gave up \$350 when
they threatened me."
He testified that he couldn't stand the
pressure any longer. So he had Moore and
Lauchell arrested. Magistrate Beaton
then under \$1000 bail each, charged with
extortion. Frets said that he would go be-
fore Magistrate Glenn and have himself
under bail. There is a warrant out for
him, charging larceny.

FLORENCE M'HEUGH A BRIDE
Farewell to Vaudeville Circles by
Marriage to Edward B. Dougherty

Florence M'Heugh, well known to
vaudeville artists in Philadelphia, has
her final farewell to her former work-
ing marriage to Edward B. Dougherty,
of Spring Garden street. The wedding
was held yesterday in the Roman Catholic
church of St. James, at 12th and Arch streets.

CHESTER DEALERS AID BLAST VICTIMS

Credit and Unlimited Time
to Pay Given Stricken
Families

MANY DEBTS LIQUIDATED

Those Whose Bread Winners
Were Killed Need Not Pay
Their Bills

By a Staff Correspondent

CHESTER, Pa., April 12.
Relief measures for the Eddystone suf-
ferers are receiving the co-operation of
Chester merchants in the form of unlimited
credits to the sufferers and promises of
liquidation of debts of families whose sup-
porting members have been killed.

In a Chester newspaper today appeared
the following advertisement by Frank
Tollin, dealer in housefurnishings:

"In this hour of distress I personally
take this public means of offering my sym-
pathy and condolences to all families that
were afflicted by the disaster, either by
death or injury.

"Those who have accounts with me need
not worry, for I will extend to them unlim-
ited time, and in such cases where the fam-
ily support was killed, I shall even liquid-
ate their debts. Yours in sorrow,
"FRANK TOLLIN."

Other merchants are about to publish
similar notices, it was said today. Physi-
cal and financial aid has poured into Che-
ster and the stricken munition town boun-
tifully.

For the first time wounds and burns are
being treated on a large scale in this coun-
try by a European war method. About
\$6000, uncollected, has been received by
Mayer Wesley S. McDowell, of Chester,
and other agencies. The women and the
clergy of the vicinity responded bravely to
the emergency.

Large stocks of bandages collected for
weeks by Red Cross workers for shipment
to the armies of the Allies were turned over
in bulk for the relief of the mutilated and
burned victims. The supply, failing, was
replenished with muslin furnished by store-
keepers and turned into bandages by vol-
unteer workers on nearly a score of sewing
machines rushed to the Sixth Regiment
Armory in motorcars.

Sufferings of the victims in the hospitals
are being alleviated by a new treatment for
burns developed on the French battle front
during the German burning oil attacks.
American surgeons receive the credit for the
treatment, called the Carrel-Dakin method.
In the Chester and Crozer Hospitals the
nurses are spraying the burned patients
with a mixture that does much to allay
pain and heal the seared surfaces. The
compound consists of rosin, beeswax,
paraffin wax and certain sedatives. When
applied it forms an airtight covering for
the burned surface, heals the burn and re-
duces suppuration to a minimum. Doctors
Webster, Maddux and Van Buren are super-
intending the application of the new mix-
ture.

The spraying method was brought to this
country by Dr. McNeil Sherman and the
preparation was made and furnished by
the Abbott Laboratories, of Chicago.

Boy Scouts of Chester and vicinity have
been among the most efficient of the relief
workers. Immediately after the explosion of
the munition plant, the Scouts mobilized
more than 300 members of the eight troops
in the city mobilized at the Chester Young
Men's Christian Association Building. With-
in forty minutes they were at work.

During the first twenty-four hours after
the disaster they delivered 500 telegrams,
asking information of persons at work in
the plant. They worked all night in the
armory helping dress wounds, making band-
ages and carrying coats.

The eight troops, in charge of John Norsk,
boy's secretary of the Chester Young Men's
Christian Association, were the Madison
Street Methodist, Third Presbyterian, Sec-
ond Presbyterian, First Baptist, Trinity
Methodist, Trinity Lutheran, Providence
Avenue Methodist and Young Men's Chris-
tian Association.

DETECTIVE ACCUSES BELLBOY

Testifies Youth Stole \$2 From Him
While He Pretended Intoxication

Leonard Barbush, a bellboy at the Ritz-
Carlton, wound up his day by attempting
to rob a Burns detective at midnight. It is
alleged, but he couldn't get away with it
and today Magistrate Meclary held him
under \$500 bail for a further hearing next
Thursday in Central Police Station. The
detective was registered under the name of
Togers. Under cross-examination, however,
he admitted he was Frank McLaughlin, 1704
Morris street.

According to the detective who made the
arrest a man was recently robbed of \$5200
at the Ritz-Carlton. McLaughlin, it is al-
leged, pretended to be intoxicated last night, rang for
the bell boy, ordered some drinks and lay down
on the bed. He pretended he was asleep
when the lad, who lives at 609 North Sev-
enteenth street, returned. It was then
McLaughlin testified, that the bellhop took
from his pocket two marked bills which he
had "planted" there.

PRICE PAINTS

Your floors and woodwork will need
a new coat of paint this spring.

Wm. H. Price Co.
209-211 South 10th St.

It is Easier To Keep Well
Than Get Well

For a Spring
tonic, take
nature's own
prescription.

BEDFORD
MINERAL
WATER

For Kidneys, Liver
and Stomach

Bottled at Bed-
ford Springs, Pa.,
famous since 1864.
Sold by druggists and
grocers. Ask
yourself or write us.

Bedford Springs Co., Ltd.

Washington, Munsey Bldg.

Baltimore, Fidelity Bldg.

Philadelphia, Real Estate Trust Bldg.



THREE EDDYSTONE VICTIMS
Mrs. Mary B. Meredith, 1227 South
Forty-ninth street (upper); Wil-
liam Harper McKay (middle);
2145 South Alden street, are
known to be dead. Miss Mary E.
Smith, 2107 St. James Place
(lower), is among the missing vic-
tims of the munitions plant ex-
plosion.

TELLS OF TRENCH LIFE FOR SUNDAY'S LEDGER

American University Student
Wounded Four Times While
Fighting for France

Sergeant Breckenridge, one of six youths
from the University of Minnesota who
joined the Fourteenth Overseas Battalion
when the war broke out, has written for
the Public Ledger the dramatic story of
his two years' fighting, during which he
was wounded four times. These stirring
trench episodes will appear in next Sun-
day's Public Ledger.
His brother died on the field. Four of
his comrades died under the white
crosses that dot northern France. His
story, written for the Public Ledger, tells
something of life on the battlefield; at-
tacks on the German lines; pathetic stories
of stricken Belgium; and the intimate daily
deeds of the trenches.
This is one of the most interesting sol-
diers' narratives published in this country
since the war began.

CANADIANS WIN MILE LINE NEAR VIMY; FRENCH ACTIVE

Continued from Page One

spite bitterly desperate assaults from the
Germans.
Fighting in the British offensive was
apparently spreading northward this after-
noon.

In that direction a strongly defended hill
near Givenchy, known as Plopie, was taken.
Boisemache, a mile farther northward, was
also captured.
No more violent fighting has been seen
anywhere on the western front than that
which marked the capture of the British yester-
day of two German counter-attacks on
Monchy. It was hand-to-hand fighting in
part with a concentrated duel from both
sides artillery intermixed. The town is
still in English hands despite every effort
by the enemy to dislodge the defenders.

Headquarters reports today showed
eleven more German guns captured between
Croisilles and Rouex.
It is over ground inches deep in snow and
slush, in cold, wet weather, that the British
and Germans are battling, man to man,
today—with the best men steadily winning.
The British advance still continues. Stiff-
ening resistance all along the line from
Lens to St. Quentin showed that the Ger-
mans were desperately striving to stop the
enormous wave of the British advance.

Without the customary defense works
minus the elaborately constructed fortifica-
tions behind which they have fought for
more than two years the Germans appear
today—like the best men steadily winning.
The British advance still continues. Stiff-
ening resistance all along the line from
Lens to St. Quentin showed that the Ger-
mans were desperately striving to stop the
enormous wave of the British advance.

Two hostile attacks against our new
positions at the northern end of Vimy
ridge were driven off by machine gun
fire, which inflicted heavy losses on the
Germans.

We made some progress south of the
Scarpe River.
The most desperate of all the bitter fight-
ing that is marking the great push is cen-
tering today north and south of the Arras-
Cambrai high road. At the point where the
road to the north, and around Bullecourt, to
the south, the British have thrust forward two
formidable wedges. Today they were bring-
ing enormous pressure to bear on the sides
of these wedges to sweep the foe out of the
intervening ground. It was against both
these wedges also that German troops are
being thrown in constant counter-attacks.
The Germans apparently realize the danger
of the wedge and sweeping-arm tactics
under way by Field Marshal Haig.

One source of great pride in England in
the tremendous success so far achieved in
the drive is the extraordinary perfection
of the British communication and supply
services. Front dispatches agreed that de-
spite unprecedented snows, high winds and
bitter cold weather, the troops even in the
sections of their most speedy advance, had
not outdistanced the supply transport.

No army in the history of wars has ex-
panded such a supply of ammunition in its
fighting as the British army has been ex-
panding in the big offensive.
General Haig's men are literally blasting
their way forward. Every battlefield re-
port agrees on the utter havoc created by
the concentrated British fire. The trans-
port service must be perfect, if the ad-
vance is to be a success, and apparently the
British service has been perfect.

Dispatches today indicated the Germans
were desperately draining other sections
of the line in massing reserves to oppose
further advances by the British.
Correspondents at the front dwell upon
the magnitude of the battle. Some military
critics believe it will prove the decisive
engagement on the western front.

The correspondent of the London Daily
Chronicle at British headquarters writes:
"In a hundred years not all the details
of the fight will be told."
There are three main zones of fighting on

the fifty-mile front from the Lens sector to
the Cambrai-St. Quentin sector. These lie:
First, south of Lens; second, east of Arras;
third, west and southwest of Cambrai.

As the British drive forward, capturing
small detachments of Germans and dis-
mounted guns, amazement grows at the
severity of the German loss. Special squads
of troops are following the fighters digging
long lines of trenches in the mud into which
the corpses are dumped and hastily covered.
On every hand gaping shell craters dis-
close the gruesome contents of what was
once a grave.

Despite the thick snow and the gales of
wind that have been sweeping the battle-
field, the air has been active all along
the front. Many of the American aviators
fighting with the Allies have placed small
American flags on their machines.

PARIS, April 12.

The next forty-eight hours are regarded
as likely to be the most crucial on the
western front in months, perhaps in the
war. They will be heavy fighting, and it is
hoped here that the fighting will be caused
by a big French offensive in co-operation
with the British. Berlin announces that
the artillery fire is daily increasing from
Valmy to Rheims. The southern pivot
of the Hindenburg line. The front
from Vailly to Rheims is roughly twenty-
five miles.

This may indicate that the French in
their turn are to do just what the British
did—strike at the point where the new
German line joins the old positions. Thus
General Nivelle would hammer the Ger-
mans' southern pivot while the British
hammered the northern. How tremendous
would be the effect of such strategy if
successful may readily be realized, for the
German line would be cut at two places,
divided into three sections, which could
be rolled up and defeated in detail.

Violent fighting along the French front
was reported in today's official statement,
indicating possibly the start of a joint
French offensive with the British "push."
"Important points were carried after the
most bitter kind of fighting southeast of
Cocuy Forest," the War Office declared.

FEDERAL LAND BANK
APPRAISERS NAMED

Names of New Officials for Five Dis-
tricts Announced From
Washington

WASHINGTON, April 12.—Appointment
of Federal land bank appraisers was an-
nounced today as follows:
New Orleans District—Hugh M. Wilson,
Opelika, Ala.; Ira J. Sandefur, Birming-
ham, Ala.; John R. McCain, Lineville, Ala.;
Charles H. Pullen, Huntsville, Ala.; S. J.
Wright, Clayton, Ala.; T. W. Skelt, Eudora,
Miss.; A. D. Campbell, Jackson, Miss.; W.
L. Pryor, Laurel, Miss.; R. W. Lumley,
Silver City, Miss., and W. C. Mason, Cor-
inth, Miss.

Columbia District—H. C. Prosser, Ham-
let, N. C.; A. M. McDonald, Charlotte,
N. C.; W. C. Hammond, Statesville, N. C.;
A. J. McKim, Winston, N. C.; T. E. Wald-
rup, Lake Butler, Fla., and J. D. Huddles-
ton, Geneva, Fla.

Omaha District—B. F. Davis, Douglas,
Wyo.

Baltimore District—E. Scott Sandy,
Burkeville, Va.

Berkeley District—W. N. Howard, Los
Angeles; W. N. Helleman, Willows, Cal.;
George C. Kreutzer, Bawersville, Cal.; Ed-
win Cox, George W. Shaw and Walter M.
Wells, San Francisco; J. J. Fox, Napa,
Cal.; A. W. Hendrick, Reno, Nev.; J. Sit-
ton, Fallon, Nev., and Guy D. Acuff, Phoe-
nix, Ariz.

CITY NEWS IN BRIEF

SHOTS WERE FIRED in a strike riot
in the sugar refinery district at Americana
and Wharton streets. Alexander Yankaski,
of 123 Fernon street, was shot in the thigh;
he was treated at the Mt. Sinai Hospital.
Several arrests were made.

CATHOLIC CLUB MEMBERS, the alumni
of the Catholic High School, held their
twentieth anniversary celebration at Kug-
ler's last night. The guests of honor were
Mgr. Nevin F. Fisher, rector of St. John's
Catholic Church; Mgr. Hugh T. Henry,
rector of the High School; the Rev. Henry
C. Schuyler, vice rector of the High School;
the Rev. William Higgins, of the faculty of
Overbrook Seminary, and Father John
Keogh, chaplain at University of Pennsylvania.

ARCHBISHOP PRENDERGAST has of-
fered to the Government the use of the con-
vent at Merion and the services of the
Sisters of Mercy. In addition, the Arch-
bishop will offer the new Mercy Hospital
now nearing completion. Special classes in
hospital work now are being conducted at
the convent.

ACCUSED OF STEALING a patient's
clothes at the University Hospital, Jack
Connelly, 835 Buttonwood street, one of
the hospital orderlies, was held in \$800 bail
for a further hearing by Magistrate Pen-
nock today. The goods which belonged to
Charles Fox, of Norristown, were recov-
ered, the police say, at the orderly's home.

CITY TREASURER McCOACH'S weekly
statement shows a balance of \$18,288,438.42
on hand this afternoon. Payments made
during the last week totaled \$645,753.97,
as against receipts of \$186,125.17.

CHIEF POSTAL INSPECTOR James T.
Cortelyou will tell of the workings of sev-
eral branches of the United States Secret
Service at the meeting of the Lyceum
Institute in the Alumni Building tonight.
The subject of his address will be "The
Postal Inspection Service and its Relation
to the Public." A musical program has been
arranged.

A TESTIMONIAL DINNER to George D.
Porter, former Director of Public Safety,
will be given by many of his friends to-
night in Scottish Rite Hall, Broad and

Cherry streets. William Wunder is
man of the committee in charge; Dr.
ward Cope is secretary, and Frederick
Drake, treasurer.

A LECTURE given in a low voice
to be understood easily by lip-readers
will be given for the deaf and dumb by
Cora Elsie Kinzie, principal of the Mul-
len School of Speech Reading for the
Deaf, in the Estey Building, Seventeenth
street and Walnut, this afternoon. The
subject will be "Silas Marner." It will
be the last lecture of a series given this
month. It is scheduled to start at 3:30 p.
m.

ARRESTED AS A SUSPICIOUS person
early today on the Thirty-second street
Passunk avenue bridge, Sanaas Antila,
forty years old, a sailor from Finland, was
sent to the Philadelphia General Hospi-
tal for observation by Magistrate Baker after
a hearing at the Fifteenth and Snyder ave-
nue police station. It is believed that
Antila is demented.

SUPERINTENDENT ROBINSON has is-
sued an order prohibiting the police from
using telephones in the police stations for
personal business.

A DOZEN FIREMEN narrowly escaped
injury early today when a fire engine and
a fire truck on which they were riding colli-
ded at Sixth and Dickinson streets. The fire-
men were responding to an alarm at Front and
Tasker streets when the cars crashed. Cap-
tain Foot, of the engine company, of Sev-
enth and Carpenter streets, was bruised in
jumping to the street, while firemen of the
truck of Twelfth and Wharton streets also
received trifling cuts. The fire loss was \$50.

SOLDIERS' DEPENDENTS in the neigh-
borhood of Sixty-first street and Elmwood
avenue will be cared for by contributions
raised by residents of the community. This
action was decided on at a meeting which
organized as the Elmwood Soldiers' De-
pendents' Aid Association.

UNQUALIFIED INDORSEMENT of
President Wilson's stand with Germany
and a pledge of support on behalf of the
Democratic Club of Philadelphia were made
today by John J. Wilkinson, who was unan-
imously elected president of the organiza-
tion last night.

A Watched Pot Never Boils

Nor does a burglary ever occur in
Holmes protected property.

Our system of electric protection
notifies our central office as soon
as any attempt is made to break
into your premises.

Holmes men are sent at once to
investigate and the burglary is pre-
vented. Burglars know this and
avoid Holmes protected property.

HOLMES

ELECTRIC-PROTECTIVE-COMPANY
812-CHESTNUT-ST. tel.-Walnut-611.

Father and Mother and the Kiddies

will all enjoy and profit by a player-piano.
Any of you can play upon it without any
special training whatever the kind of music
you like best. It is the strongest tie of
affection you can put into your home. Stop
in and see this beautiful

NEW FULL 88-NOTE PLAYER \$375 PIANO

Full-size piano with up-to-date action.
Well made and handsomely finished. Big-
gest value in Philadelphia. Let us demon-
strate this player and show you how easy it
is to own one.

F. A. NORTH CO.

1306 Chestnut Street

Please send me complete description of your \$375 Player-Piano
also details of easy-payment plan, without interest or extra.

Name

Address

Adding and Calculating Machine

CONTROLLED KEY
Comptometer

PROVING POSTINGS
BALANCING ACCOUNTS
ADDING TRIAL BALANCE
EXTENDING & PROVING INVOICES & INVENTORY
EXTENDING AND FOOTING PAYROLL
FIGURING COSTS AND ESTIMATES

Centralizing the Figure Work of Accounting

Easier and less expensive means of getting at the figure facts
of business—with reliable accuracy—that's what you get when
you center all the figure work of your office on the Comptometer.

No matter what it is in figures—proving
postings; adding trial balance; calculating
costs; figuring payroll, estimates, bills, in-
ventory—all can be turned over to the
Comptometer.

That's because the Comptometer is an un-
iversal in its application to the arithmetic
of business as the typewriter is to letter
writing.

Assistant Treasurer A. J. Ross, of the Diebold
Safe and Lock Co., Canton, Ohio, says that
"the Comptometer has enabled us to cut

down the time and labor of all figure op-
erations and has greatly increased the efficiency
of the office. It would cost us the salaries
of six more men if we would have to give
them up."

Ask some Comptometer user in your line of
business about it.

Better still, ask the nearest Comptometer man
to show you by practical test how centering
the figure work of your office on the Comp-
tometer will simplify the operation of any
accounting system you may employ.

"Better Methods of Accounting" free on request.

FELT & TARRANT MFG. CO., 1719 N. Paulina St., Chicago, Ill.
Philadelphia—Real Estate Trust Bldg.
Washington, Munsey Bldg.
Baltimore, Fidelity Bldg.